KV FOCUS

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A Kalamazoo Valley Community College Publication
April 2025

KalamazooVALLEY community college

NURSING AND RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAMS LEARN THROUGH SIMULATION

(L to R) Lauren Taber, nursing, Sydney Swinehart, nursing, Kayla Vanhoven, nursing, Raine Jackson, RCP

In a real-life emergency, there is no time for mistakes. Preparing students for the real world is critical to ensuring our communities receive the highest level of care. Kalamazoo Valley recently brought two programs together, respiratory and nursing, to prepare students for real-life medical emergencies.

A team of nursing and respiratory therapy students took part in a full-day, hands-on training. The students worked together on two critical care scenarios where they had to stabilize a patient's condition, manage the airway and perform ventilator management. According to Susan Pearson, program director for the respiratory care program, multidisciplinary simulations provide a learning experience where students can practice problem-solving and decision-making in a safe, supportive environment. They allow participants to work through challenges like troubleshooting equipment and calculating medication doses without real-world risks.

"These simulations not only build confidence but also reinforce the importance of teamwork across different healthcare roles," Pearson said. "By improving collaboration and critical thinking, they have been shown to reduce mistakes in real patient care, ultimately leading to better health outcomes."

Respiratory care student Faye Scott-Farnsworth said this simulation was a great opportunity to learn in a hands-on way.

"Through the simulation, I learned more about the nursing side as well as being able to teach a little about what respiratory therapists do," Scott-Farnsworth said. "Healthcare workers constantly are thrown into situations with each other and have to work together to best treat the patient and that's exactly what this simulation did."

The simulation day was developed and led by Paul Rigby, nursing and EMT clinician. Rigby worked closely with Nicole Pattison, a nursing clinician; Jill LaPenna, nursing faculty instructor; and Pearson.

"I liked that the simulation scenario was directly tied into what we had just learned," said nursing student Melissa Rios. "I liked that the scenario was evolving, so as we solved one problem another one would arise which kept us thinking about not just the current situation but looking at the bigger picture as well."

The student participants were divided into two teams. Each team took turns actively participating in a scenario while the other team observed. After each 30-minute simulation, all students gathered for a debriefing session. They reflected on what they learned, discussed different patient care strategies and received feedback from the simulation instructors and their peers.

Pearson helped design the respiratory components of the simulations.

"Watching the students interact brought tears to my eyes. Seeing them work together, teach each other and gain a better understanding of their roles was incredible," Pearson said.

LaPenna also found the experience inspiring.

"It was incredible to witness not only teamwork among the instructors but also collaboration between students from different disciplines," LaPenna said. "Seeing them learn from both the simulation and each other was truly energizing. This experience reaffirmed the importance of simulation training in healthcare education."

MICHIGAN RECONNECT AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE GUARANTEE: UNLOCKING AFFORDABLE EDUCATION FOR ALL

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Looking for some summer fun? Explore Kalamazoo Valley's wide variety of youth summer camps. From athletics to hands-on learning, there's plenty at Kalamazoo Valley to keep kids busy all summer long!

2025-2026 FAFSA
HAVE YOU DONE YOURS?

Visit Student Financial Services
(Room 9210 on the Texas Township Campus)
for assistance with completing your application.

MICHIGAN RECONNECT

COMMUNITY COLLEGE GUARANTEE | MI Student Aid

The state of Michigan is committed to expanding access to education for its residents, and two key initiatives — Michigan Reconnect and the Michigan Community College Guarantee — have been instrumental in helping students achieve their academic and career goals.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of these funding sources to enroll for the summer and fall semesters at Kalamazoo Valley.

Michigan Reconnect is a state scholarship program that provides eligible Michigan residents with free in-district tuition and mandatory fees to pursue an associate degree or Pell-eligible skills certificate at any of Michigan's public community colleges. The program is designed for Michigan residents who are at least 25 years old, have a high school diploma or equivalent, haven't earned a college degree (associate or bachelor's) and want to pursue an associate degree or skills certificate.

High school graduates from the class of 2023 and later are eligible for the Community College Guarantee which covers in-district tuition and mandatory fees. An additional $1,000 is given to Pell-eligible students.

Both programs require completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Learn more and apply at **www.kvcc.edu/reconnect** or **www.kvcc.edu/myfuture**.

For enrollment questions, email enrollment@kvcc.edu or call 269.488.4303. For assistance completing the FAFSA, visit Student Financial Services, Room 9210, on the Texas Township Campus.

Summer semester classes start May 12, May 27 and July 1 while fall semester classes begin Sept. 3, Sept. 17 and Oct. 22.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE

Kalamazoo VALLEY Museum

Admission is **FREE**

STATEWIDE ASTRONOMY NIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Enjoy space science activities and special free planetarium shows for all ages at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum on Saturday, April 12, from 5 to 8 p.m., as part of the annual Statewide Astronomy Night, also known as SWAN. Registration is not required.

EARTH DAY RAIN GARDEN TOURS SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Celebrate Earth Day with a free guided tour of the museum's rain garden at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. Saturday, April 26 to learn how simple landscaping changes can have a significant positive impact on the environment in urban settings. Register at **kalamazoomuseum.org**.

RAY HARRYHAUSEN: MINIATURE MODELS OF THE SILVER SCREEN NOW - APRIL 27

Over 100 original artifacts from the collection of animation filmmaker Ray Harryhausen. Enjoy Harryhausen's stop-motion animation films at 1 p.m. April 6 and April 13. Hear the Scotland-based exhibit's curator at 1 p.m. April 27. Visit **kalamazoomuseum.org** for film titles.

Organized by The Ray & Diana Harryhausen Foundation (Charity No. SC001419)

COLORFUL COLLECTIONS NOW - AUG. 31

This new exhibit features items from the permanent collection of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum displayed in a rainbow of hues. Delve into the color spectrum like never before as you enjoy some of the brightest and boldest examples from the KVM's collection.

Designed by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

THE ART OF ADVERTISING NOW - AUG. 31

Highlighting nostalgic signs and advertisements from local businesses from the permanent collection of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, "The Art of Advertising" offers up an eclectic mix of advertising paraphernalia from bygone eras.

Created by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

WALLACE & GROMIT AND SHAUN THE SHEEP: SHEAR GENIUS! MAY 17 - AUG. 31

Step into the environments of Wallace & Gromit and Shaun the Sheep to explore their contraptions, antics and escapades through dramatic play and interactive opportunities.

Wallace & Gromit™ and Shaun the Sheep™: Shear Genius! was created by Minnesota Children's Museum and Ardman Animations™ Limited © 2025

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees.

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR SCHOOL OF COSMETOLOGY AND BARBERING

Stylist Alexis DeVisser and barber Josue Yerenas practice their skills at the School of Cosmetology and Barbering

If you have a passion for beauty and style and making others feel their best, a career in cosmetology or barbering might be the perfect fit. Kalamazoo Valley Community College's School of Cosmetology and Barbering offers comprehensive programs designed to prepare students for a successful career in these fast-growing industries. Applications for the college's October cohort are currently being accepted.

"In October, we will celebrate the school's one-year anniversary," said Aliah Lavender, program director. "Whether you are fresh out of high school or looking to make a career change, applying to the School of Cosmetology and Barbering can set you on the path to a rewarding profession. We are excited to welcome the next cohort of cosmetology and barbering students to our beautiful facility."

Nearly 100 people have enrolled in the program since its launch.

Kalamazoo Valley provides convertible to credit, employer-recognized credentials which prepare students to take state cosmetology and barbering licensing exams with the possibility to build upon these certifications to earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in salon management* or an Associate of Applied Science in Occupational Technical Studies.

The 1,500-hour, year-round cosmetology program covers education on shampooing and scalp health, haircutting and coloring, chemical relaxer and permanent waving, manicures and pedicures, cleaning/sanitation practices, skin care, waxing procedures, anatomy and physiology. Technical skills such as wiggery, hair extensions, hair restoration, eyelash extensions and natural hair cultivation are also taught. The 1,800-hour, year-round barbering program covers all of these topics and also includes razor shaves, beard trims and lineups.

Class hours for both programs are 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (part time) and 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (full time) Monday through Friday. The cost of attendance is $15,000 for cosmetology and $18,000 for barbering. Fees vary, between $700 - $1,000, and include state licensure exam fees. The program is covered by the Kalamazoo Promise. All students are encouraged to apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at **www.fafsa.gov** as soon as possible to start the financial aid process for the appropriate award year.

For more information and to apply, visit **www.kvcc.edu/haircare** and click on "Steps to Enroll."

**Based on approval from the state of Michigan and Higher Learning Commission.*

STUDENTS FROM KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS VISIT CAMPUS

Nearly 800 Kalamazoo Public Schools middle-schoolers visited Kalamazoo Valley Community College last month through the Cougars Rising program to experience campus life and to build an understanding of the transition from high school to higher education.

Cougars Rising, a new college initiative, is an expansion of the experiential college experience for KPS students. As part of the program, students also visit Western Michigan University through the Bronco Buds program in the ninth grade.

"This is a great opportunity for the college to work closely with both Kalamazoo Public Schools and Western Michigan University and support students earlier in their educational journey," explained Kevin Lavender, interim director of Early/Middle College, dual enrollment, youth pipeline and camps. "We want to expose and educate area youth about the benefits of dual enrollment and Early/Middle College before they get to high school."

Students engaged with college students, faculty and staff, while learning about majors, academic resources and extracurricular activities. Hands-on activities included a mini wind turbine kit competition led by the college's Wind Turbine Technician Academy instructors and an art flipbook project with college students in the Applied Arts and Media Technologies program. The day also included lunch in the college's Cougar Cafe.

"These visits foster connections between students and colleges and show students how they should be preparing academically, behaviorally and mentally for future career and college pathways," said Tracy Miller, Ph.D., KPS coordinator of postsecondary pathways, instruction and student services. "These types of experiential learning opportunities help students make informed decisions about their futures and envision what college life would look like."

For more information about Cougars Rising, dual enrollment or Early/Middle College, contact Lavender at klavender@kvcc.edu or 269.488.4509.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: TIM SPARLING

Kalamazoo Valley Community College graduate Tim Sparling is currently a hospice and palliative care nurse practitioner at Corewell Health, working at Lemmon-Holton Cancer Pavilion in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Sparling credits Kalamazoo Valley with helping him achieve his academic goals and build his career.

"I chose Kalamazoo Valley Community College because of the school's reputation for excellence in nursing," Sparling said.

"Receiving an associate in applied science in nursing gave me the confidence to set out into the working world and start to make a difference. I became financially independent and was able to pay back my student loans almost instantly."

Sparling, originally from Plymouth, Michigan, came to Kalamazoo to attend Western Michigan University. It wasn't long before he realized Kalamazoo Valley was the perfect fit and decided to transfer.

After graduating with an associate degree in 2003, Sparling was a nurse for several years. Afterward, he attended University of Phoenix, where he received his bachelor's of science in nursing. He later earned his nursing doctorate at Wayne State University.

"Out of all my schooling, Kalamazoo Valley taught me the most. I can say that confidently and without reservation," Sparling said. "Kalamazoo Valley is where I learned incredible knowledge about being a professional nurse. Thank you for the chance to make a difference for others."

Sparling said his passion for his career stems from the opportunity to help others.

"I see cancer patients of all ages and stages. I am blessed with the opportunity to care for people at their most vulnerable," Sparling said. "I also teach part time at The Ohio State University in a weekly, intensive seminar on evidence-based practice. I am fortunate that my job allows me flexibility to both teach and practice nursing at an advanced level."

For those who are unsure if they would like to pursue higher education, Sparling said it is worth the hard work.

"If you are on the fence, please consider going to Kalamazoo Valley Community College and taking some general education classes. The counselors helped me plan out what my degree would require both in time and money and were instrumental to my success," Sparling said. "I have so many lifelong friends as a result of the close relationships I developed with my cohort."

Tim Sparling

GRAIN TO GLASS: NEW ONLINE PROGRAM EXPANDS ACCESS TO ASPIRING BREWERS NATIONWIDE

Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Sustainable Brewing Program will soon be accessible to students across the United States through an innovative new online format.

This expansion aims to eliminate geographical barriers, making high-quality brewing education affordable, flexible and available to anyone pursuing a career in the brewing industry. Students in the program will gain the skills necessary for success in both production and non-production roles. The program, the first of its kind in Michigan, will be available for the Fall 2025 semester.

"We have been building this program for two years," said Sustainable Brewing instructor Aaron Ross. "We are excited to offer our students even more opportunities within our program to provide them with multiple options for careers."

This degree is personalized and flexible, and designed, in part, to recognize traditional coursework available at Kalamazoo Valley in addition to structured on-the-job training, military, trade/ proprietary schools and apprenticeship programs. Students with industry experience may test out of coursework and be awarded credit for certain classes up to 15 credit hours.

The coursework covers interdisciplinary topics, including beer production, hospitality and business. Led by experienced full-time instructors with decades of industry expertise, the new program allows students to earn an occupational trades studies (OTS) associate degree in as little as four semesters. Students can choose between two flexible learning pathways: either fully virtual coursework with lab experience integrated into their brewery-related current place of employment or fully virtual coursework supplemented by weekly in-person lab sessions at the Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building at 418 E. Walnut St. in downtown Kalamazoo. The program has a fully licensed and operational brewery and taproom on campus.

An 18-hour certificate of achievement and a 30-hour certificate program are also among the new program's offerings.

Kalamazoo Valley's new online Sustainable Brewing Program is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and serves as an excellent choice for both traditional students entering the industry and non-traditional learners looking to specialize in beer and brewing.

The college launched its Sustainable Brewing Program in 2015. The program is a two-time champion at the U.S. Open College Beer Championship, and a bronze medalist in the Great American Beer Festival, and has won numerous gold, silver and bronze medals in a plethora of other competitions. Alumni of the program have found success in the beverage industry across a wide array of operations and fields of study.

"It has been incredible to see our program grow," said Sustainable Brewing instructor Brian Lindberg. "We have many students who have seen success from their time at Kalamazoo Valley. We look forward to seeing how providing this online course option will bring in even more passionate students ready to kick-start their careers."

Registration for the fall semester is now open. Visit **www.kvcc.edu/register.**

ANNA WHITTEN HALL'S NAMESAKE HONORED AS BUILDING TURNS 20

Anna Whitten may be gone, but the legacy of Kalamazoo Valley Community College's longest-serving board member is very much alive. It was evidenced by the large crowd of friends, relatives, community members and Valley staff at last month's luncheon honoring Whitten on the 20th anniversary of the downtown Kalamazoo building named after her.

The college invited the public to attend "A Life of Service: Anna Whitten Tribute Luncheon" at Anna Whitten Hall. Twenty years ago, Kalamazoo Valley named its Arcadia Commons Campus instructional building at 202 N. Rose St. after Whitten to recognize her vast contributions to the institution. The structure, first opened in 1994, was renamed Anna Whitten Hall in February 2005.

"It was heartwarming to see so many people pay their respects at our luncheon," Valley President L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. said. "Every year, the college hosts a Women's History Month program. With the milestone 20th anniversary of the naming of Anna Whitten Hall this year, it was only fitting to remind everyone of the impact that Anna Whitten had at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and in the larger community. May we never forget her quiet, diligent and powerful leadership and servanthood."

A highlight of the event was the official unveiling of a new interactive display in the Anna Whitten Hall lobby chronicling Whitten's life story and accomplishments. The audience was also treated to a moving, five-minute video about Whitten's inspirations and vast humanitarian record in the community, followed by memories from retired Valley English and communications instructor Sadie Clark Miles who calls Whitten "my second mother."

Whitten moved to Kalamazoo in 1950. The Port Huron native joined Kalamazoo Valley's Board of Trustees in 1968 and was active as board secretary until her death in 2016, at age 95. She played a pivotal role in advancing the college's mission, advocating for students above all else and ensuring that accessible education remained a cornerstone of the community. In addition to a building in her name, Whitten's memory continues to live on at the college through the Anna Whitten Humanitarian Scholarship, created by Whitten's great granddaughter, Nicole Jennings, in 2011.

The Kalamazoo civil rights icon was a tireless champion for

Valley President L. Marshall Washington and Anna Whitten's daughter-in-law, Victoria Herron, with Whitten's Allen Chapel AME Church family and Board Chair Lucinda Stinson

people in need, whether they needed food, an education, health care or their civil rights. She helped create the Douglass Community Center and was instrumental in a downtown Kalamazoo park being named after Martin Luther King Jr. She worked with a wide range of organizations, from the NAACP, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes and Ladies' Library Association of Kalamazoo to the Family Health Center.

Whitten has earned numerous awards for her humanitarian efforts, including the 2013 Red Rose Award from the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo and the YWCA Women of Achievement Award in 1999. Whitten is the recipient of the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the NAACP's Humanitarian Award. In 1999, the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners named Whitten an official "county treasure."

APRIL IS COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

Together with more than 1,000 other community colleges across the country, Kalamazoo Valley is celebrating Community College Month during April. This monthlong campaign is an opportunity to share with the community not only that Kalamazoo Valley is the first choice of many college-bound students, but also that community colleges are first-class institutions that are vital to our local and state economies.

Community colleges are respected collaborators, leaders and partners, creating innovative and equitable opportunities to prepare learners for existing and emerging careers.

They are a uniquely American educational model that was designed to guarantee access to affordable, high-quality education for all. They serve as an on-ramp to careers and to higher-level degrees for many students, particularly for the most demographically and socioeconomically diverse students.

"The credentials earned by our students prepare them to fill in-demand careers in healthcare, skilled and professional trades, technology and new media or for transfer to four- year institutions," Kalamazoo Valley President L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. said. "Community College Month is our opportunity to remind people about the huge impact the college makes on the vitality of Southwest Michigan."

In Michigan, more than 280,000 students attend community college each year and more than half of all bachelor's degree holders in the state have completed a portion of their coursework at a community college. Michigan is home to 28 public community colleges and three tribal colleges with an average tuition rate of $4,966, compared to $16,280 for a public in-state university.

NEW COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASS: COFFEE SEED TO CUP

TO REGISTER AND FOR LOCATION SCAN CODE

SESSION 1 | APRIL 12 | 10 - 11:30 A.M. | $25
Just how does coffee make it from a "coffee cherry" on a farm somewhere near the equator to your cup here in Michigan? We'll walk through the steps of coffee's journey from farm to cup and discuss what transformations the bean goes through in order to create the type of coffee you crave in the morning.

SESSION 2 | APRIL 19 | 10 - 11:30 A.M. | $35
What do a goatherd, thieves or Cold War economics have in common with the coffee you'll be drinking at this session? Show up and find out! This session will present some major historical themes of coffee. It will focus on the origins of coffee to some of the major trends making coffee the beverage of choice in many parts of the world.

SESSION 3 | APRIL 26 | 10 - 11:30 A.M. | $25
Buying coffee at a local grocery store has become the norm for many of us on a budget. However, there are drastic differences in quality, taste and price in the coffee aisle. This class will discuss what factors to consider when buying coffee in a grocery store, from labels to price points to sourcing to grind.

FREE PROGRAM OFFERS PEOPLE CHANCE TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE, EARN CASH

Due to overwhelming success, Kalamazoo Valley Community College is once again inviting graduating high school seniors and adult learners to a FREE three-week summer program called Valley Advantage.

Students who attend can earn up to $550 for participating and can receive a $500 scholarship if they enroll in at least three credit hours for the Fall 2025 semester at Kalamazoo Valley.

Valley Advantage focuses on what is needed to start college in the fall and is designed to help students build confidence and navigate college. The program is intended to counteract learning loss among recent high school graduates who experienced interruptions to in-person learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A high school diploma or GED is the only requirement.

During this three-week program, students will:

- Boost their skills in reading, writing and mathematics
- Explore college resources
- Learn valuable life skills and success strategies
- Engage in team-building exercises

The Valley Advantage offers:

- Opportunity to earn up to $550
- Assistance with transportation costs (gas card/bus tokens)
- Loaner laptop computer
- Weekly Valley Food Share box
- Classroom supplies
- Breakfast or lunch each day
- Kalamazoo Valley swag
- End-of-program celebration

Assistant Dean of Student Development Services and Special Programs Louis Thomas hopes to build off last year's successes with this summer's students.

"Students gained the confidence they needed to feel comfortable taking the next steps in their educational journey. By the end of the three weeks, you could see a difference," Thomas said. "I am excited to be able to offer the program again."

This summer, four sessions are available and space is limited.

SESSION DATES

Session 1 | 8:30 - 11:45 a.m. or 12:30 - 3:45 p.m.
Center for New Media on the Arcadia Commons Campus

- July 7 - 10
- July 14 - 17
- July 21 - 24, 28

Session 2 | 8:30 - 11:45 a.m. or 12:30 - 3:45 p.m.
Anna Whitten Hall on the Arcadia Commons Campus

- Aug. 4 - 7
- Aug. 11 - 14
- Aug. 18 - 22

Eighty-one percent of students who participated in last summer's program enrolled in fall semester classes at the college. As part of the program, those students were assigned completion coaches who provided individualized support to help students address academic and non-academic challenges and connect with appropriate campus and community resources.

Register now at **www.kvcc.edu/valleyadvantage**.

MEN'S BASKETBALL CAPS STELLAR SEASON AT NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

It's been an amazing ride for Kalamazoo Valley's men's basketball players this season, first winning their conference, then being named state champs and next finishing No. 4 at the national tournament.

While the team did not take home the national title, they won the first round of play and a quarterfinal game, and in doing so made Kalamazoo Valley Community College history. This was the first time that the Cougars have ever won a game at the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Men's Basketball Championship since the college's founding in 1966.

The team was seeded seventh in the national tournament. They made it all the way to the semifinals, but fell to No. 3 seed, Kirkwood Community College of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 88-73, on Friday, March 21. The Cougars left with the honor of being one of the Final Four.

"Hats off to the Kalamazoo Valley men's basketball players on a history-making season," Athletic Director Russ Panico said. "They've worked hard for it."

The Cougars had achievements both on and off the court this season: The players collectively had an average GPA of 3.23 for the Fall 2024 semester. Valley's Head Men's Basketball Coach Jim Horn was named Coach of the Year for the Western Conference of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) for 2024-2025.

Also, sophomore guard Joey Liedel was chosen Western Conference Player of the Year, sophomore MaKyle Doss was selected Western Conference Defensive Player of the Year and sophomore Ramere Draper was named to the National All-Tournament Team. Another point of pride was Liedel reaching the rare career college milestone of 1,000 points. It happened during a home game Jan. 4.

In addition to the two game wins on the national stage, the Cougars' record on the local and state levels has been impressive this season. On March 1, the team won the MCCAA State Championship before an audience of over 700 fans at the college's Texas Township Campus. They beat Macomb Community College, 93-85.

On Feb. 26, the Cougars ended their season as the conference champs. They finished the season at Glen Oaks Community College winning, 103-98, concluding with a 14-0 record in the MCCAA Western Conference (an overall record of 28-1). They rank No. 1 in the conference, and No. 7 in the country among Division II community colleges. This is the third consecutive year that the men's basketball team has been the conference champion.

Visit **athletics.kvcc.edu** for more information and a full list of Kalamazoo Valley men's and women's basketball players who earned athletic awards this season.

MERIT APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO **MAY 31**

High school seniors planning to attend Kalamazoo Valley for the 2025-2026 school year can still apply for the Kalamazoo Valley Merit Scholarship. The $2,000 scholarship can be used toward educational expenses for two consecutive semesters at $1,000 per semester. The application deadline has been extended to May 31.

The scholarship can be combined with the Community College Guarantee. Funds can be used to pay for books, transportation and living expenses.

To be eligible for consideration, the following is required:

- Minimum high school GPA of 3.25
- Must be a current high school senior (2025 high school graduating class)
- Must be receiving a high school diploma or GED with a 2025 high school graduating class
- Must have applied and been accepted to Kalamazoo Valley Community College
- Must complete New Student Orientation
- Must enroll in a minimum of six credits for the Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 semesters

Learn more and apply online at **www.kvcc.edu/merit** by May 31. If you have questions, please call 269.488.4303 or email enrollment@kvcc.edu.

Additional scholarships are available through the KVCC Foundation. Visit **www.kvcc.edu/finaid** to learn more.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

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